



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

**Division of Public Health Protection & Safety
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Audrey Tayse Haynes
Secretary

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Dear Kentucky Radiation Professional:

In the event of a large-scale radiological emergency, health and medical systems would likely be overwhelmed with individuals seeking treatment. It is critical that we are prepared to meet this demand. As a Radiation Professional, you have the background and skills to help.

In preparation to respond to radiological emergencies, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) is working to create a Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) group of specialized volunteers called the Radiation Response Volunteers Corps (RRVC) in the Kentucky Health Emergency Listing of Professionals for Surge (K HELPS) system. Members of the RRVC may be deployed to help out during radiological events. The K HELPS program is a web-based system used to register and train medical professionals and others willing to volunteer to serve during public crises.

K HELPS allows public health officials to streamline the registration of health professionals and apply emergency credentialing standards to prospective volunteers. Pre-registration does not require someone to respond if contacted, but it does provide a way to quickly reach potential volunteers when a disaster strikes.

K HELPS complements the existing MRC program that utilizes medical and non-medical volunteers to supplement existing local emergency and public health resources in responding to emergencies. Currently, an MRC unit covers nearly every county in Kentucky, with local health departments and emergency management agencies sponsoring most units.

RRVC volunteers can register with K HELPS online at <https://www.kentuckyhelps.com>. After registering, you will be asked to choose an MRC unit associated with your geographical area. The local MRC unit leader will contact you and send paperwork that will need to be completed in order for them to verify your license, complete a criminal background check, issue an identification badge and provide orientation and training. If you so choose to be listed in the RRVC group, you will be required to provide additional information during registration and you will also be required to attend specialized radiation training provided by the KDPH Radiation Health Branch. Please remember that signing up in K HELPS does not automatically register you to help out in emergencies, you must complete all the required paperwork and attend the required orientation and training in order to be an approved MRC volunteer and be deployed. Please remember that registration in KHELPS does not require someone to respond if contacted; the volunteer chooses whether or not they wish to respond for each incident.

I hope you will take this opportunity to learn about the program and decide to join us in our quest to be prepared to serve Kentuckians and citizens across the United States who may desperately need our help if a radiological emergency strikes.

We want both our fellow Kentuckians and citizens throughout the United States to know – without a doubt – that, in times of need, Kentucky helps.

Sincerely,


Matthew McKinley
Radiation Control Program Director
Kentucky Department for Public Health